4/21/54
Monday Morning

Dear Sir,

I reported for work early this morning, but I arrived to find that the train broke down and that the men will not get in until between 10:00 and 12:00. So I am taking advantage of this opportunity to write you this letter and arrange my notes.

About that U.S.P.H.S. employee. Well I think he is getting a raw deal because he was just an errand boy. The true culprits are higher up in the Labor Dept. and in the Farmers Assn. This is how they worked it. The prospective braceros would get together at a lady's home across the line (in Mexicali). There they would wait until the errand boy arrived. They would give him their names and anywhere from $20.00 to (U.S. Money) $40.00, depending on where they wanted to go. From here the errand boy would take the list of names and part of the money to a certain man in the Farmer's Assn. Now he adds the list of names to the regular list of legal braceros called specials. Then he takes the fixed list to a U.S. Labor Dept official who brings the men across. I forgot to mention it before, the erriand boy also gives the prospective Braceros instructions on how and

where to mingle with the regular braceros.

I overheard all this between two U.S.P.H.S. employees during our lunch period. (One of them also had been an errand boy). He also mentioned that he got $10.00 for each errand. This errand boy said that if the fellow that is in jail squeals, he is going to beat the daylights out of him. He also said that the one who should really be put in jail is the fellow from the Assn. because he is the one that talked them into going into this racket with this easy money to be made. What do you think?

A lot of things have happen in Mexicali since you were here last. There have been many gunfights and killings (some between policemen) in the streets. They are also cracking down on smuggelers and on american citizens who are living in Mexicali. They are also keeping a very close watch on Gov. employees who are known to be on the bracero program. It is said that all this is due to the changing of the political bosses and with the coming elections.

Yesterday, Sunday, I went across the line to get a hair-cut and I witnessed

a very much heated argument between a barber and a client. The barber mentioned something about the coming of Lopez Mateos and the client responded with "What the hell do we want him for." "all he will do is rob the people and he and his friends will become rich just like all the other presidents have." Then the client started saying things about the barber. "Take you for example. During the last elections you were sent to represent this section of town and all you did was to set it up for yourself by accepting bribes and setting up your own business." (The barber-shop). The barber responded with "So What" and you better shut-up or else." The client got up to fight him, but he was dragged out of the barber-shop by some other barbers.

Well Sir I guess this is all for today. I have many other things to talk to you about, but they can wait until you get here.

Best regards to the family.

Yours Truly

Lauie M Tagaban